AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the present title with the following new title:

Silyl-diamine Initiators for Anionic Polymerization of 1,3-Butadiene and Styrene, and Rubber Compositions

Please replace the paragraph no. [0015] with the following amended paragraph:

[0015] The modified conjugated diene polymer according to the invention is preferable to have a ~~Moony~~ Mooney viscosity ML_{1+4} (100°C) of 10-150.

Please replace the paragraph no. [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

[0016] In the modified conjugated diene polymer according to the invention, it is preferable that the modified conjugated diene polymer wherein Z^1 in the formula (1) is an alkali metal or an alkaline earth metal is modified with a carbanion reactive compound. In this case, Z^1 in the formula (I) is a residue produced by reacting with the carbanion reactive compound. As the ~~carbanoin~~ carbonion reactive compound used in the modification are preferable a compound including at least one of C=X (X is O, S or C) and an epoxy group as a carbanion reaction site and a nitrogen-containing functional group, a silicon-containing compound, and a tin-containing compound.

Please replace the paragraph no. [0017] with the following amended paragraph:

[0017] As the compound including at least one of C=X and an epoxy group as a carbanion reaction site and a nitrogen-containing functional group are preferable 4-dimethylamino benzophenone, 4-diethylamino benzophenone, 4,4'-bis(dimethylamino) benzophenone, 4,4'-bis(diethylamino) benzophenone, 4-~~dimetlamino~~dimethylamino benzaldehyde, 4-diethylamino benzaldehyde, 1,1-bis(4-dimethylaminophenyl) ethylene, 1,1-bis(4-diethylaminophenyl) ethylene, 1,1-dimethoxy trimethylamine, 4-

dimethylaminobenzylidene aniline, N,N-dimethylformamide, N,N-diethylformamide, N,N-~~dimethylacetoamide~~dimethylacetamide, N,N-~~diethylacetoamide~~diethylacetamide, 4-pyridylamide, 4-pyridyl-ethyleneoxide, 4-vinylpyridine, 2-vinylpyridine, dicyclohexyl carbodiimide, ε-caprolactam, N-methyl-ε-caprolactam, 1,3-dimethyl-2-~~imidazolydinone~~ imidazolidinone, N-~~methylpyrolidone~~methylpyrrolidone, ~~pheylisocyanate~~phenylisocyanate, ~~pheylthioisocyanate~~ phenylthioisocyanate and diisocyanate diphenylmethane. Further, 4,4'-bis(dimethylamino) benzophenone, 4-vinylpyridine and 1,3-dimethyl-2-~~imidazolydinone~~imidazolidinone are preferable.

Please replace the paragraph no. [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

[0019] As the silicon-containing compound used in the modification are preferable a ~~hdrocarbyloxysilane~~ hydrocarbyloxysilane compound represented by the following formula (III): [wherein A^1 is a monovalent group having at least one functional group selected from (thio)epoxy, (thio)isocyanate, (thio)ketone, (thio)aldehyde, imine, amide, isocyanuric acid triester, (thio)carboxylic acid hydrocarbylester, a metal salt of (thio)carboxylic acid, carboxylic anhydride, a halide of carboxylic acid, carbonic acid dihydrocarbylester, cyclic tertiary amine, non-cyclic tertiary amine, nitrile, pyridine, sulfide, multi-sulfide, an alkali metal salt of amine, al alkaline earth metal salt of amine, silazane and disilazane; R^5 is a single bond or a divalent inactive hydrocarbon group; R^6 and R^7 are independently a monovalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group having a carbon number of 1-20 or a monovalent aromatic hydrocarbon group having a carbon number of 6-18; n is an integer of 0-2; when plural OR^7s are existent, these OR^7s may be same or different; active proton and onium salt is not included in the molecule] and a partial condensate thereof, and a hydrocarbyloxysilane compound represented by the following formula (IV): $R^8{}_p$-Si-$(OR^9)_{4-p}$...(IV) (wherein R^8 and R^9 are independently a monovalent aliphatic

hydrocarbon group having a carbon number of 1-20 or a monovalent aromatic hydrocarbon group having a carbon number of 6-18; p is an integer of 0-2; when plural OR^9 s are existent, these OR^9 s may be same or different; active proton and onium salt is not included in the molecule) and a partial condensate thereof.

Please replace the paragraph no. [0021] with the following amended paragraph:

[0021] Also, the polymerization initiator according to the invention is characterized by the following formula (V): (wherein R^1, R^2 and R^3 are the same ~~mining~~ meaning as mentioned above; Y^2 is a substituted silyl group; a part of R^1, R^2 , R^3 and Y^2 may be bonded to each other to form a cyclic structure; M^1 is an alkali metal or an alkaline earth metal).

Please replace the paragraph no. [0058] with the following amended paragraph:

[0058] As the carbanion reactive compound used in the modification of the polymerization active terminal are mentioned a compound including at least one of C=X and an epoxy group as a carbanion reaction site and a nitrogen-containing functional group, a silicon-containing compound, a tin-containing compound and the like. As the compound including at least one of C=X and epoxy group and the nitrogen-containing functional group are mentioned 4-dimethylamino benzophenone, 4-diethylamino benzophenone, 4,4'-bis(dimethylamino) benzophenone, 4,4'-bis(diethylamino) benzophenone, 4-dimethylamino benzaldehyde, 4-diethylamino benzaldahyde, 1,1-bis(4-dimethylaminophenyl) ethylene, 1,1-bis(4-diethylaminophenyl) ethylene, 1,1-dimethoxy trimethylamine, 4-dimethylaminobenzilidene aniline, N,N-dimethylformamide, N,N-diethylformamide, N,N-~~dimethylacetoamide~~dimethylacetamide, N,N-~~diethylacetoamide~~diethylacetamide, 4-pyridylamide, 4-pyridyl-ethyleneoxide, 4-vinylpyridine, 2-vinylpyridine, dicyclohexylcarbodiimide, ε-caprolactam, N-methyl-ε-caprolactam, 1,3-dimethyl-2-

imidazolidinone, N-methylpyrrolidone, phenylisocyanate, phenylthioisocyanate, diisocyanate phenylmethane and the like. Among them, 4,4'-bis(dimethylamino) benzophenone, 4-vinylpyridine and 1,3-dimethyl-2-imidazolidinone are preferable.